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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence

21 August 1961

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIAN REQUESTS FOR ARMS

1. The United States has provided arms, including piston and jet aircraft, to Saudi Arabia since June, 1951, under the Mutual Defense Act of 1949. The United States in 1951 agreed to furnish arms to be paid for by the Saudi Arabian Government using irrevocable letters of credit. The United States also agreed to send a military training mission to Saudi Arabia. The agreement was renewed in 1957; by the terms of the renewal Saudi Arabia was to be allowed to purchase $110,000,000 worth of armaments, $50,000,000 of this sum on long-term credit and the balance for cash. Since 1957 the Saudis have purchased $60,000,000 worth. Although in 1955 the USSR made an effort to sell Saudi Arabia arms, the offer was refused and Saudi Arabia has relied almost entirely on the United States for its arms requirements.

2. The present Saudi request, made in May, 1961, includes:

12 F-100D Jet Fighters

4 B-57B Medium Jet Bombers

2 Early Warning Radar, type AN/NPS-7

16 155mm Howitzers

22 M41 or M41A1 Tanks

22 M47 Tanks

OSD & NSA review(s) completed.

DOS REVIEW COMPLETED

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In addition, the Saudis seek quantities of signal equipment, spare parts, airfield equipment, ammunition, and workshops. The total cost of the requested material is estimated to be around $40,000,000.

3. King Saud is especially eager to secure the newer types of jet fighters and bombers, as well as the radar for reasons of prestige; both the UAR and Iraq--his revolutionary rivals--have advanced Soviet jets.

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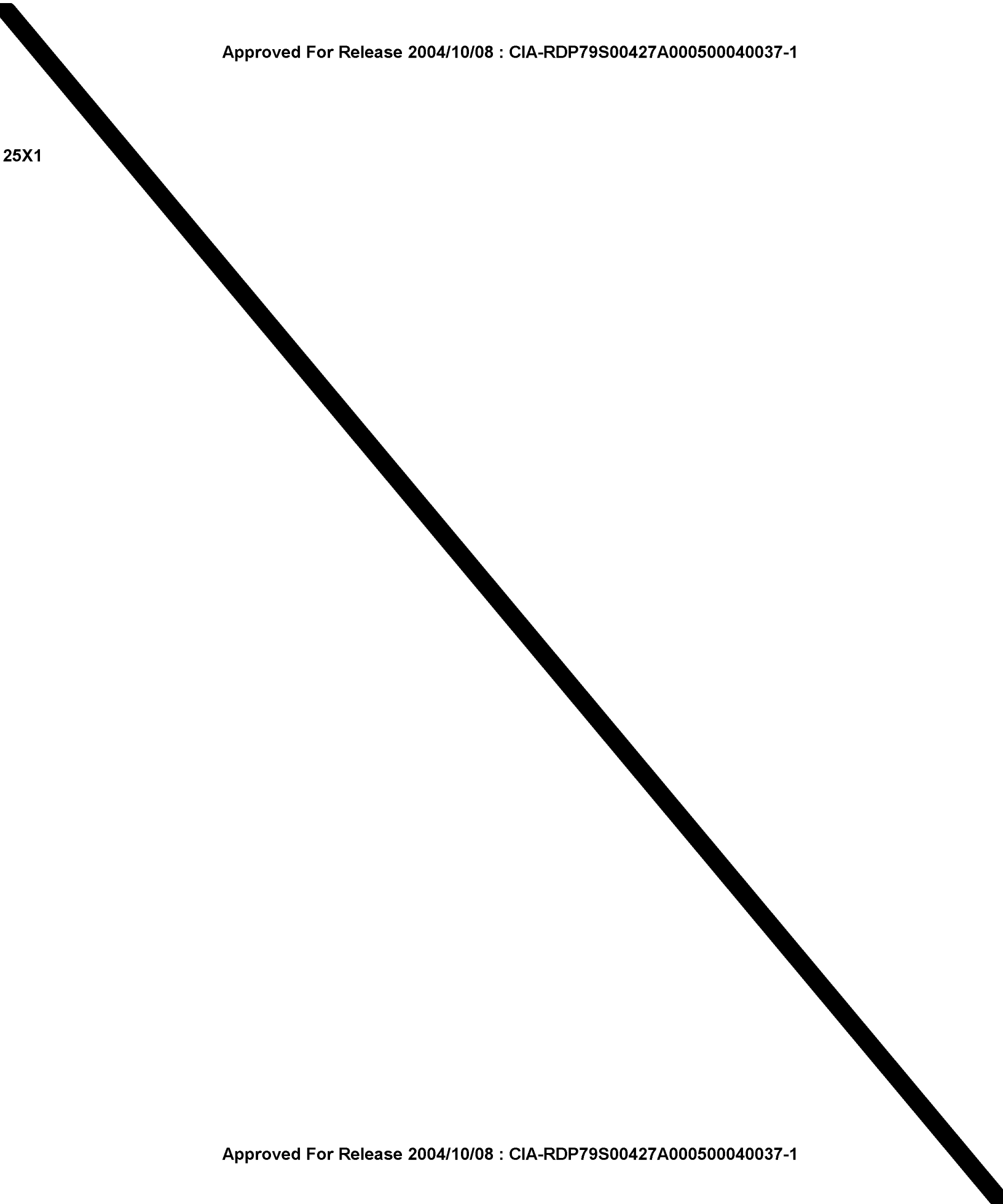

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